



Wilmington, Massachusetts

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

October 22, 2021

TO: Board of Selectmen

RE: Town Clerk Appointment

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Elizabeth Lawrenson to the position of Town Clerk effective October 19, 2021. Ms. Lawrenson has worked for the Town since March of 2012. Hired as the senior clerk in the Planning & Conservation Office she quickly “learned the ropes” with a specific focus on supporting the Conservation Commission. In June of 2016, Beth was appointed to serve as senior clerk in the Town Clerk’s Office where she expanded her skills to include maintenance of vital records, issuance of dog licenses and supporting the efforts associated with local, state and federal elections and annual and special town meetings. Beth is very adept at researching matters that come before her, well organized and has a strong work ethic. In February of 2021, Ms. Lawrenson was appointed to the position of Assistant Town Clerk. An underlining trait that she has displayed throughout her tenure with the Town is working with residents in a positive and productive manner.

Prior to her time with the Town, she worked for the Wilmington School Department and for a local real estate agency. Ms. Lawrenson has an associate’s degree in liberal arts from Middlesex Community College. As a resident of Wilmington, Beth has a strong familiarity with the Town and will guide the department in serving the public in a professional and responsive manner.


Jeffrey M. Hull
Town Manager

cc: Kerry Colburn-Dion, Assistant Town Manager/Human Resources Director
Elizabeth Lawrenson, Town Clerk



Wilmington, Massachusetts

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

October 22, 2021

TO: Board of Selectmen

RE: Public Records Access Officers

The updated Public Records Law took effect on January 1, 2017. Municipalities are required to appoint one or more Records Access Officers (RAO) to respond to requests for public records. The law describes their role as to:

- Coordinate the agency's or municipality's response to requests for access to public records;
- Assist individuals seeking public records in identifying the records requested;
- Assist the custodian of records in preserving public records; and
- Prepare guidelines that enable requestors to make informed requests.

One of Wilmington's RAO's is the Town Clerk. With the appointment of Elizabeth Lawrenson to replace Christine Touma-Conway as Town Clerk, it is necessary that the Board vote to designate her to serve in this role.


Jeffrey M. Hull
Town Manager



Wilmington, Massachusetts

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

October 22, 2021


TO: Board of Selectmen

RE: Proposed Special Town Meeting Dates

As noted in my September 10, 2021 memorandum to the Board, a Special Town Meeting is necessary prior to the conclusion of the Town's Eligibility Period within the Massachusetts School Business Authority (MSBA) funding program. The close of the Eligibility Period is March 28, 2022. The recommended dates are either Monday, March 7, 2022 or Tuesday, March 8, 2022.

The final step in the Eligibility Period is for the Town to appropriate funds to conduct a feasibility study. If funds are approved at a Special Town Meeting a firm will be hired to explore several options associated with addressing replacement of the Wildwood Early Childhood Center. This process would lead to a preferred option. The Board does not need to call the meeting at this time but should agree upon a date so that the venue for the meeting can be confirmed. The date of the meeting will then dictate a series of other dates including, the date for signing the warrant, advertising and conducting the Finance Committee public hearing. As you know, the Finance Committee holds their budget meetings on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the month of February and the first week in March.

The Wilmington High School auditorium is available for both March 7th and March 8th. Given the uncertainties associated with COVID-19 and the variant, a request has been made as to the availability of the Shriners Auditorium. If the winter period leads to an increase in COVID cases, and the re-establishment of strict protocols, the Town should have the option of a "Plan B." Clearly, the preference is to hold the meeting in the high school auditorium.


Jeffrey M. Hull
Town Manager

cc: Jonathan Eaton, Town Moderator
Kerry Colburn-Dion, Assistant Town Manager/Human Resources Director
George Hooper, Public Building Superintendent
Bryan Perry, Finance Director/Town Accountant
Elizabeth Lawrenson, Town Clerk



Wilmington, Massachusetts

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL COMMUNICATION

FROM THE TOWN MANAGER

October 22, 2021

TO: Board of Selectmen

RE: Wildwood School Building Committee Meeting

As part of the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Eligibility Period, the Town is required to establish a building committee to provide input and guidance throughout the process of evaluating approaches to address the replacement of the Wildwood School and during the process of design and construction. The Wildwood School Building Committee held its first meeting on October 18th at 6:30 pm via Zoom.

School Superintendent Dr. Glenn Brand led the discussion. Work has been ongoing to provide documentation required by the MSBA. The attached "Eligibility Period Schedule of Deliverables" was presented to committee members. Each deadline has been met through the end of September. A key component of this project will be the student enrollment number as it will be a major factor in the size of a future school. Discussions will be occurring with representatives from MSBA and the Town over enrollment figures. The Town has provided information about developments "in the pipeline" that will affect student enrollment. George Hooper, Public Buildings Superintendent, will be providing information about maintenance of school facilities and the investments that have been made in schools.

The School Department has created a webpage on their website that will serve as a repository for all the information that is being provided to the MSBA, minutes of the committee meetings and other related information. The site can be accessed at <https://www.wpsk12.com/cms/one.aspx?pageId=48835006>. Dr. Brand referenced the video tour of the Wildwood School which was prepared by George Hooper and the School's Information Technology Director Ken Lord. The video is accessible on the School Department's Wildwood School project website page. Discussion took place about the importance of continuing to keep residents informed about the reasons for replacing the school and the work being performed to that end. Suggestions included creation of newsletters to be taken home by students, use of local print and electronic media and an open house at the Wildwood School. Committee members agreed to a monthly meeting schedule with the November meeting to be determined.


Jeffrey M. Hull
Town Manager

Attachment

Eligibility Period Schedule of Deliverables

Town of Wilmington Wildwood Elementary School

MSBA Board of Director Meeting – April 14, 2021

Eligibility Period Commences – July 1, 2021		
MODULE ONE - Eligibility Period		
Deliverable	Days	Due Date and Status
Initial Compliance Certification	30	July 30, 2021 Required
School Building Committee	60	August 30, 2021 Required
Educational Profile Questionnaire	90	September 29, 2021 Required
Online Enrollment Projection	90	September 29, 2021 Required
Enrollment/Certification Executed	180	December 28, 2021 Required
Maintenance and Capital Planning Information	180	December 28, 2021 Required
Local Vote Authorization	270	March 28, 2022 Required
Feasibility Study Agreement	270	March 28, 2022 Required
Eligibility Period Concludes – March 28, 2022		

Note: If the District has concerns about meeting any of the following deadlines, please let the MSBA know by July 1, 2021. The MSBA will require Districts that are unable to complete the preliminary requirements within the timeframes noted for each to withdraw its SOI and reapply when the District has the financial and community support required.



TOWN OF WILMINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Highway
Tree

Water & Sewer
Parks & Grounds

Engineering
Cemetery

Interoffice Memorandum

TO: Jeffrey M. Hull, Town Manager

FROM: Joseph Lobao, Business & Utility Manager
Michael Woods, Director of Public Works

SUBJECT: PFAS Result for October 2021

DATE: October 19, 2021

As a result of new state drinking water standards, the Town of Wilmington Water Division has been testing drinking water for a family of chemical compounds known as pre- and polyfluoroalkyl substance (PFAS). The most recent result indicates the presence of PFAS in a concentration above the new maximum contaminant level (MCL), and the Town is taking immediate action to address the PFAS increase.

On October 18, 2021, the Town received laboratory results that indicated a sample taken at the Sargent Water Treatment Plant on October 6, 2021, had (PFAS) at a level of 20.6 parts per trillion (ppt). Recently, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) issued a new regulation setting the drinking water standard for six PFAS compounds (referred to as PFAS6) at 20 nanograms per liter (ng/L), or 20 parts per trillion (ppt). The Commonwealth set its own standards because these compounds are not yet regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Currently, EPA has a nationwide advisory level of 70 ppt for two specific PFAS compounds (PFOA and PFOS).

While the sample result does not constitute a drinking water violation or nonconformance, the Town is required to give public notice once the 20ppt threshold is tripped. If we were to exceed the MCL 3 months consecutively, this would be a violation of the DEP regulations and result in a Notice of Noncompliance, with the DEP dictating steps the Town would need to take. Knowing our PFAS levels have increased, the DPW is preparing a plan of action to reduce the amount of PFAS in the drinking water as quickly as possible and has taken the following actions since receiving the sample result:

- Decreased the amount of water being distributed to the public from the Sargent WTP by shutting off 1 of the 3 wells sending water to this plant, the one with the highest PFAS levels. This will decrease the load on the carbon bed in the filters, which will reduce PFAS. We believe this step alone will reduce PFAS6 levels below the 20ppt drinking water standard.
- A new water sample was taken after shutting off 1 well. We expect laboratory results on October 25 and will place that information on our website.
- Increased the amount of water being taken from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), which has **no** PFAS6 detections. This will make up for the water loss from the deactivated well.
- Initiated the process of replacing the Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) at the Sargent Water Treatment Plant. GAC is a primary treatment method for PFAS removal. We have been successful with contracting with a GAC vendor and they are expected on-site October 26th. That means the Sargent WTP will go offline at that time and stay off for approximately 2 weeks while the GAC is replaced. Other maintenances will be performed during the down time. PFAS in the water distribution system is expected to be between non-detect and 5ppt with the one of the contributing sources offline.
- Created Town of Wilmington PFAS Information Page. (See link below)
- An informational flyer will be mailed to each address on our distribution system with the required DEP language, information in this memo and updates as they materialize.
- Continue our monthly PFAS6 sampling protocols at both WTPs.
- Engaged with MassDEP toward fulfilling all regulatory obligations.

PFAS are a family of thousands of manmade chemicals used for non-stick coatings, stain resistance in clothing and carpeting, and firefighting foams as well as many other uses. Manufacturing of certain PFAS was discontinued in the U.S. about 30 years ago, but they may still be used in imported products. PFAS are resilient and do not degrade easily in soil and water, they are known as “forever chemicals”. As a result, they are widely found in the environment and many consumer products where they migrate to the food supply and drinking water. In fact, most people already have concentrations of these chemicals in their blood as food and consumer products are additional points of exposure.

MassDEP states that “consuming water with PFAS6 above the drinking water standard does not mean that adverse effects will occur. The degree of risk depends on the level of the chemicals and the duration of exposure.” As a precautionary measure MassDEP recommends consumers in a sensitive subgroup (pregnant or nursing women, infants and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have a compromised immune system), not consume, drink, or cook with water when the level of PFAS6 is above 20 ppt. When in doubt or one has concerns about health, please speak with your health care provider to obtain the proper information for your situation. Numerous communities across the state and throughout the country have detected PFAS in their public water supplies at varying levels of concentration. Until recently testing had been required at the parts per billion concentration which led to non-detects in Wilmington’s treated water. Recently when testing was required at the parts per trillion concentration level PFAS was detected.

There are scientific studies that suggest potential links between exposure to certain PFAS in the environment and health effects. The studies have looked at the effects on the development of fetuses and infants, the thyroid, liver, kidneys, hormone levels and the immune system, as well as if a cancer risk exists for people exposed to levels **well above** the drinking water standard. Our understanding of the effects of PFAS on human health is still evolving. MassDEP and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control both note more research is needed and ongoing, and it is important to remember consuming water with high PFAS6 levels does not mean adverse effects will occur. While awaiting further scientific study, MassDEP has acted to set a conservative drinking water standard, and statewide public water suppliers are working in the best interest of consumers to lower PFAS6 levels where they are found to be at or above 20 ppt.

Consumers concerned about potential health effects of PFAS should consult a medical professional.

Water customers will soon receive in the mail an official notice from the Town as required by MassDEP. This official notice will provide more information, as stated above, about PFAS6 and additional resources.

For more information, visit the Wilmington Water Division website at <https://www.wilmingtonma.gov/water-sewer-division> or call 978-658-4711 and ask to speak with Joe Lobao, Utility Manager.